



MEDIA ADVISORY

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California's Professional Licenses Take Centerstage at PACT summit

Event Seeks to Help Agencies, Law Enforcement, Private Groups Protect Consumers

Who: The California Department of Consumer Affairs' licensing agencies come together for an extraordinary conference in Los Angeles.

What: The summit, dubbed PACT for Professionals Achieving Consumer Trust, brings together nearly all of DCA's 40 boards and bureaus, which licenses 2.4 million professions, trades and businesses.

When: November 17-21, 2008

Where: Westin Los Angeles Airport Hotel
5400 West Century Blvd.

Background: PACT will help reiterate the importance of California's professional and trade licenses both to the state's economy and the public at large. One major topic that will be discussed is the future of California's licensee population. The state's growing population threatens to outpace the number of licensees. This phenomenon is already evident in the well-publicized shortage of registered nurses and other allied health professionals. Some of the other issues that will be covered include:

- The economic downturn has made consumers more vulnerable to the rising number of schemes, scams, and

rip-offs. We'll examine how to protect consumers and licensees during these difficult economic times.

- How can standards be enforced when practitioners go online? What are the rules for online practice? Should existing standards be adapted to promote online practice?
- E-prescribing is designed to streamline the prescription process and cut down on errors. Despite the advantages of e-prescribing barriers to implementing such systems remain. We'll take a look at e-prescribing from the standpoint of patients, pharmacies, and prescribers.
- The Board of Pharmacy will focus on prescription container labels as California moves forward to redesign and standardize labels so they become more patient-centered.
- With nearly 35,000 licensed auto repair facilities operating in California, we have the collective potential to significantly reduce pollution generated in the state and create a cleaner environment for California consumers. The Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) initiates its Green Station Recognition Program.

Note: The meetings and forums are open to the public. If you have any questions about the stories outlined above or the PACT Summit in general, or would like us to help you set up interviews, obtain b-roll, etc., please contact the Office of Public Affairs. For a full agenda of the PACT Summit, visit the <http://www.dca.ca.gov/summit/>

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